

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

May 25, 1999

Maricopa Association of Governments Office
302 North First Avenue, Suite 200, Saguaro Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Gary Brown, Tempe, Chairman
*Victor Mendez, ADOT
Debbie Kohn for William Bates, Avondale
Dan Cook for Patrice Kraus, Chandler
*Randy Harrel, Fountain Hills
*Tami Ryall, Gilbert
Jim Book, Glendale
*Doug Sanders, Goodyear

Mike Cartsonis, Litchfield Park
Chris Plumb for Tom Buick, Maricopa County
Jeff Martin, Mesa
David Moody, Peoria
Tom Callow, Phoenix
Ken Driggs, RPTA
Steve Hogan, Scottsdale
Bill Parrish, Surprise

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Regional Bicycle Task Force: Patrick
McDermott, Chandler
*Street Committee: Gary Thomas, Gilbert
*Pedestrian Working Group:
Mike Branham, Surprise

*Intermodal Management System Working
Group: Dave Berry, Swift Transportation
Company
*Telecommunication Working Group: Debbie
Kohn, Avondale

* Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Terry Johnson, MAG
Stephen Tate, MAG
Paul Ward, MAG
Eric Anderson, MAG

Sarath Joshua, MAG
Dawn Coomer, MAG
Bryan Jungwirth, RPTA
Harvey Friedson, Tempe

1. Call to Order

Chairman Garry Brown called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of April 27, 1999

Steve Hogan requested that the Minutes of April 27, 1999 be revised to show that he had been represented by Peggy Carpenter. The minutes were approved unanimously with this correction.

3. Call to the Audience

No members of the audience wished to address the committee.

4. Transportation Manager's Report

Terry Johnson indicated that MAG and ADOT had resolved to implement a better coordinated programming process and indicated that the new process would accelerate the submission of federally funded street projects to the Transportation Improvement Program from December to the August/September period.

Chairman Brown asked if staff was developing new programming guidelines to aid MAG member agencies. Terry Johnson indicated that stakeholders would provide input on guidelines on June 8, 1999.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

Consent items are marked with an asterisk. Steve Hogan moved to approve the consent agenda, and Ken Driggs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

*6. Availability of Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Round VII Enhancement Funds

MAG staff has been notified by ADOT that Round VII Enhancement Fund applications are due to ADOT by October 1, 1999. ADOT Enhancement Funds are awarded statewide on a competitive basis. Enhancement Funds may be used for the design and implementation of pedestrian, bicycle, landscaping, scenic, historic preservation, archaeological, billboard removal and other projects that are near, impacted by, or a functional part of a transportation system. Enhancement funds may also be used for acquisition of property and easements associated with transportation enhancement projects. Applications for projects in the Maricopa Region are due to MAG by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 12, 1999.

This year, approximately \$12 million is available statewide for the program. Approximately \$7 million will be provided for enhancement projects on local roads, and \$5 million for enhancement projects on state roads. This amount is a substantial increase over the last round, when only \$4 million total was available. ADOT has requested that all projects submitted are of high quality

7. Report on the MAG Freeway Program

Eric Anderson addressed the Transportation Review Committee. The plan for accelerating the freeway program is moving forward and he is currently addressing issues concerning federal funding of some freeway sections. It is anticipated that action by the Regional Council will be needed in July to secure a Grant Anticipation Note for construction of the South Mountain freeway-to-freeway interchange. ADOT plans on selling the note in September. Also, MAG will host a right-of-way stakeholders meeting this week to discuss acquisition issues and strategies to control right-of-way cost. It is anticipated that ADOT will spend \$100 million for advanced right-of-way acquisition in the coming year.

8. Special Transportation Needs Study

This item was not discussed and will be addressed at a later meeting.

9. Advance Design of Bicycle Projects

Dawn Coomer provided an overview of this item. She noted that the Regional Bicycle Task Force had decided to forward the list of bicycle project design consultants to ADOT and to allow ADOT staff in consultation with MAG member agencies to select consultants from the list for design studies requested by MAG members.

10. Interim Closeout of the FY 1999 MAG Federally Funded Program

Paul Ward provided an overview. He indicated that approximately \$470 thousand in obligation authority (OA) would be left over in FY 1999. Four projects -- three in Surprise for dust control and one in Scottsdale for signal coordination -- would be carried over into FY 2000. These projects had all been approved by the appropriate MAG technical committee. One project in Maricopa County had been removed from the carry over list at the request of the County.

Tom Callow noted that Phoenix had requested additional funding for one project based on future funding and asked if the amount left over would have been available for the Phoenix project. Paul Ward responded that the amount would have been available for the project and that Phoenix could increase funding for the project in the coming year. He also cautioned everyone that the estimated left over OA was not finalized and the estimate could change.

11. ITS Integration Application to US DOT

Sarath Joshua provided an overview of the item. He noted that an application for participation in the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Deployment Program had been submitted by MAG with the aid of ADOT. This participation will focus on integrating ITS applications in the MAG area, particularly the integration of traffic operations centers and emergency call centers.

Debbie Kohn asked about the project selection process. Sarath Joshua responded that he expected that the USDOT would short list approximately 150 projects by early Fall to be presented to Congress for selection and that approximately \$400 million was set aside for the program. He indicated that a local fund match rate had not been identified for the program and that project applications varied in the amount of match used. He also indicated that the MAG application had been reviewed by both the ITS and 911 committees and that if it was selected by the USDOT, a more detailed project definition would be required.

Terry Johnson noted that the application had already been sent to the USDOT and that no action regarding this matter was required from the Committee.

12. Scope of Work for ITS Strategic Plan Update

Sarath Joshua provided an overview of the item. He noted that an ITS Strategic Plan had been adopted in 1995, but that since then a national ITS architecture had been developed and the USDOT had developed a concern for achieving a high level of consistency between ITS applications. The goals of the Update would be to mainstream the ITS planning process into the regional planning process and to achieve consistency with the national ITS architecture. The Update budget is \$250 thousand and is expected to take a year to complete. A technical advisory committee composed of the MAG ITS Committee and representatives from the Arizona Department of Public Safety and other interested parties would oversee the Update. The Update would include periodic presentations to MAG committees and a final report. A request for proposals has already been released for the Update.

Steve Hogan noted that the Update would clarify MAG's role in ITS planning and would help set the path for future ITS efforts.

A general discussion ensued concerning ITS. It was noted that the benefits of some ITS applications was questionable or unknown and that the overall cost of ITS could be considerable. At the same time it was noted that the potential benefits and applications of ITS are also unknown and that ITS could prove to be an extremely valuable tool for managing traffic. All parties agreed that the Update could prove valuable in addressing these issues.

Chairman Brown asked if the Transportation Review Committee would receive periodic reports on the Update. Terry Johnson indicated that the Committee would receive periodic reports.

13. Legislative Report

Jeff Martin provided an update of current activities at the State Legislature. He noted that legislation to accelerate the freeway program had been passed, but that the ability to go to the voters to ask for a regional tax to fund transit had been removed.

Ken Driggs thanked Jeff Martin for his efforts. He noted that regional transit funding needed to be addressed in the future.

14. Next Meeting Dates

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 22, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. in the MAG Office, Saguaro Room.